

In the Claims:

1-39 (canceled).

40 (new). A cage or an item of cage furniture for use by a caged rodent, the cage or item of cage furniture comprising a coloured material which is transparent or translucent to a human observer, but is perceived as being substantially darkened or opaque by the caged rodent, wherein said coloured material transmits less than 20% of visible light with a wavelength of less than 540nm.

41 (new). A cage or an item of cage furniture for use by a caged rodent, the cage or item of cage furniture comprising a coloured material which is transparent or translucent to a human observer, but is perceived as being substantially darkened or opaque by the caged rodent, wherein said coloured material transmits less than 20% of visible light with a wavelength of less than 560nm.

42 (new). A cage or an item of cage furniture for use by a caged rodent, the cage or item of cage furniture comprising a coloured material which is transparent or translucent to a human observer, but is perceived as being substantially darkened or opaque by the caged rodent, wherein said coloured material transmits less than 20% of visible light with a wavelength of less than 580nm.

43 (new). A cage or an item of cage furniture for use by a caged rodent, the cage or item of cage furniture comprising a coloured material which is transparent or translucent to a human observer, but is perceived as being substantially darkened or opaque by the caged rodent, wherein said coloured material transmits at least 60% of visible light with a wavelength of 600nm or more.

44 (new). A cage or an item of cage furniture for use by a caged rodent, the cage or item of cage furniture comprising a coloured material which is transparent or translucent to a human observer, but is perceived as being substantially darkened or opaque by the caged rodent, wherein said coloured material transmits, on average, at least 20% of light with a wavelength in the range 580-590nm.

45 (new). An item of cage furniture for use by a caged rodent, the item of cage furniture comprising a material which is transparent or translucent to a human observer, but is perceived as

being substantially darkened or opaque by the caged rodent, wherein the item of cage furniture comprises a substantially right-angled triangular shaped floorless shelter.

46 (new). A cage or an item of cage furniture according to any preceding claim, wherein said coloured material is red-coloured or red-tinted.

47 (new). A cage or an item of cage furniture according to claim 46, for use by a caged rat or mouse.

48 (new). A cage or an item of cage furniture according to claim 46, wherein the cage or item of cage furniture is substantially or entirely formed from a substance which is transparent or translucent to a human observer but substantially darkened or opaque to the caged animal.

49 (new). A cage or an item of cage furniture according to claim 46, wherein the cage or item of cage furniture is formed entirely from a synthetic plastics material.

50 (new). A cage or an item of cage furniture according to claim 46, wherein the material comprising the cage or cage furniture is resistant to repeated autoclaving.

51 (new). A cage or an item of cage furniture according to claim 46, comprising polysulfone, polyetherimide, and/or polycarbonate.

52 (new). An item of cage furniture in accordance with claim 46, provided with fixing means to restrict the movement of the item of cage furniture within a cage.

53 (new). An item of cage furniture in accordance with claim 46, comprising at least two entrances.

54 (new). A method of making a cage or an item of cage furniture, the method comprising the step of forming said cage or item of cage furniture, so as to comprise a material which is transparent or translucent to a human observer, but is perceived as being substantially darkened or opaque by a caged rodent, and performance of which method results in production of a cage or an item of cage furniture in accordance with claim 40.

55 (new). A cage or an item of cage furniture for use by a caged rodent, the cage or item of cage furniture being substantially or entirely formed from a substance which is transparent or translucent to a human observer, but substantially darkened or opaque to the caged rodent.